

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 11 April 64 11/2230Z		2. LOCATION Homer, New York	
3. SOURCE Civilian		10. CONCLUSION UNIDENTIFIED	
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Multiple			
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 30 Minutes - 45 Minutes		11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Letter to Dr Hynek of unusual observation. See Case File.	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual (BX)			
7. COURSE Drifting			
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

CORTLAND, N. Y.

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May 15, 1964

This whole episode took place in about forty-five minutes and ended just about dusk. If it were not for the fact that all four of us observed this event, I would hesitate to bring this to your attention. However, the inclosed clippings are what prompted me to write to you relative to the same. Newark Valley is about fifty miles South of ^{us} and I must admit the report from there sounds wierd, but then, our experience appeared the same to us.

During World War II I was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and all my flying experience was within the Continental limits of the United States. In all that time I never once, night or day, observed anything unusual in the skies. Now, at age 43, I have observed phenomena which are beyond my comprehension, and which tax my sense of reasoning and credulity.

Respectfully,



Inc.

Closeup as seen through
binoculars



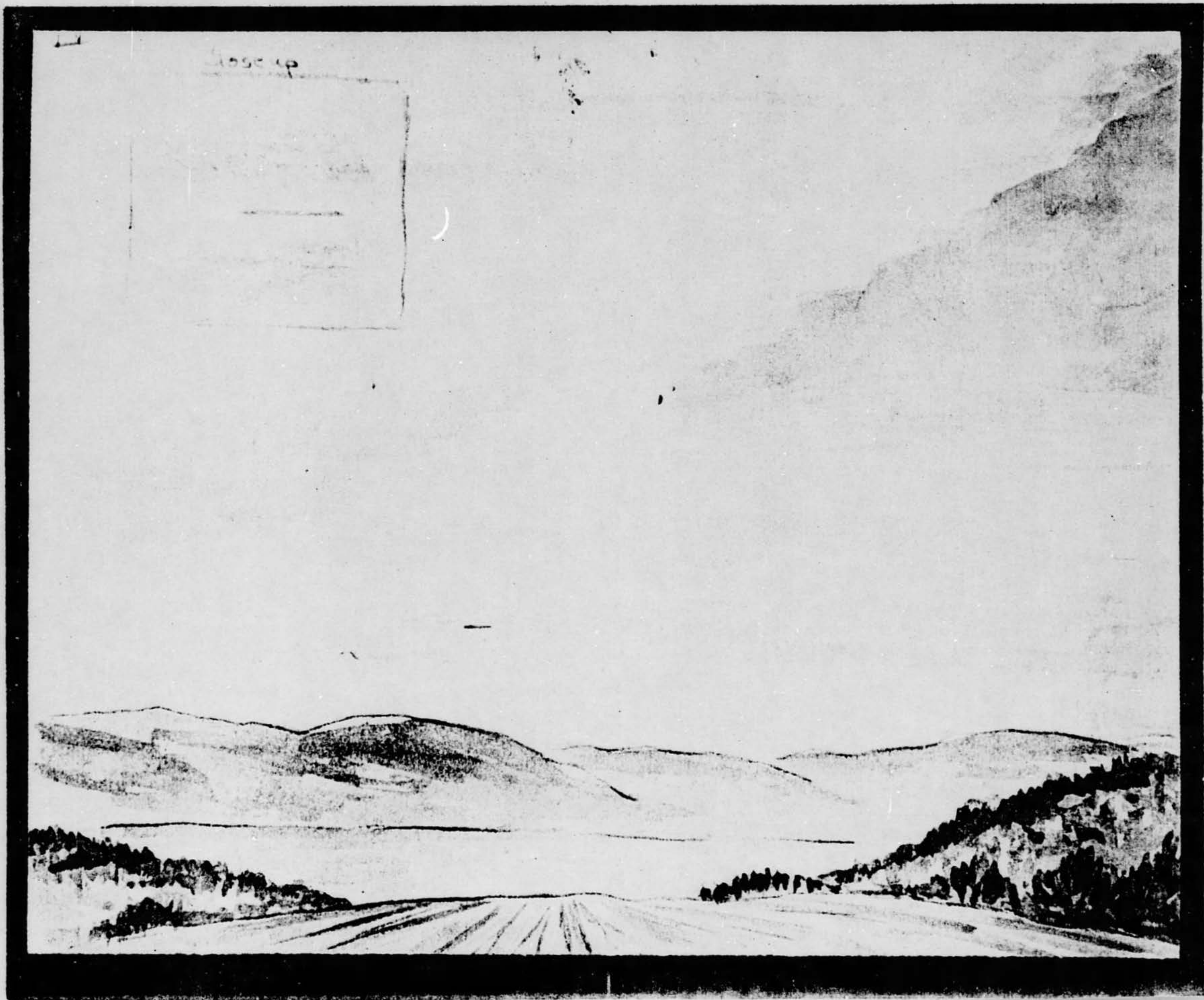
11.

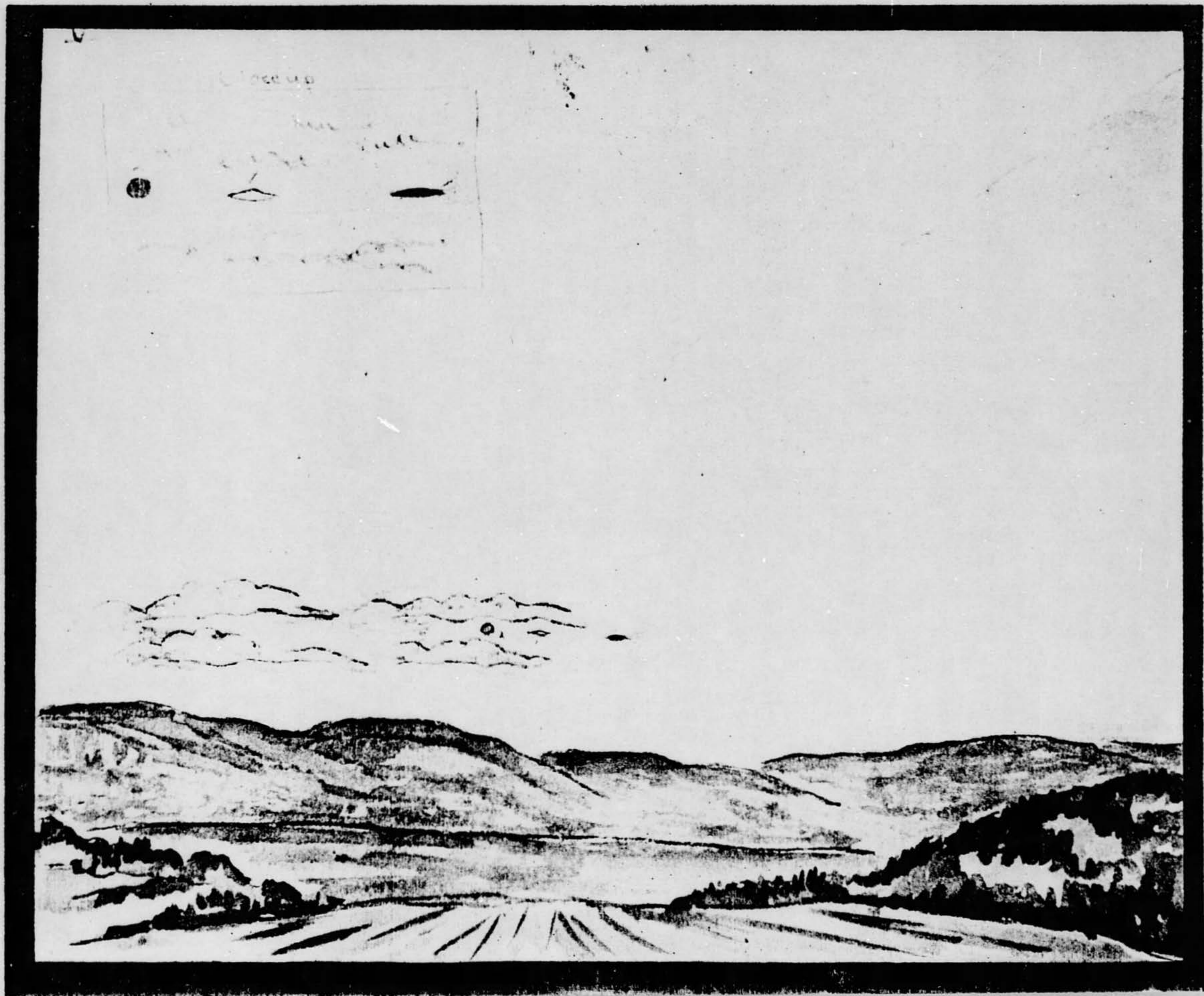
Close up



Closeup







VI

Close up

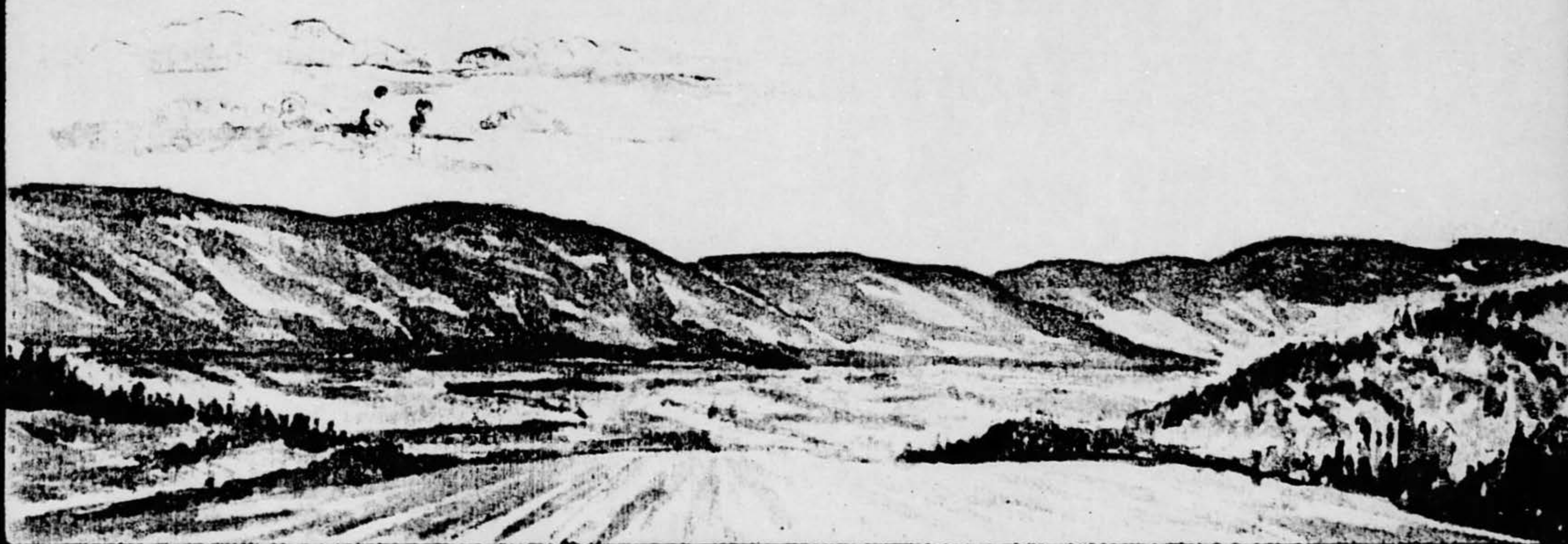


1 2 3
1 2 3



VII

Close-up



SUMMARY OF PRINTS

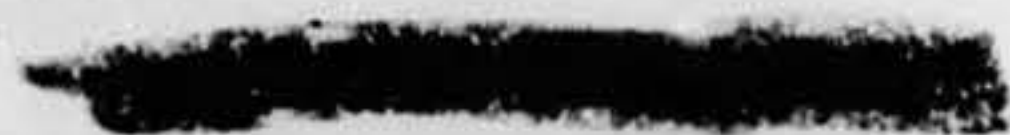
- Print I. At first sighting of the dark end of the formation it was not giving off any smoky material. This happened as it neared the cloud formation and the vapor drifted to the North according to my daughter. However, I thought it drifted to the South as it dissipated and we can not agree on the North or South direction.
- Print II. The vapor trail from the object was a great deal wider than an ordinary jet trail and after Print II had disappeared and should be disregarded in the subsequent prints.
- Print III. New object appears moving from left to right and at arm's length I could cover the sight of the object with my two forefingers so this must have been a very large vehicle.
- Print IV. A very short time lapsed as object moved rapidly from left to right and then from right to left back again as shown in.
- Print V. There were no signs of other planes or jet trails in the sky during any of these sightings.
- Print VI. - As the object was dividing into two parts shown in closeup, the whole operation was very smooth and absolutely positive in action.
- Print VII. No. 3 of Print VI became 4, and subsequently 5 as shown in closeup on Print VII. Object 5 should be more distinctly a pencil-shape and not curved as shown.

Miscellaneous

At Print II the object did not continue to fall but seemed to be suspended and then disappeared into the cloud bank. At Print IV object shot forward a distance of two inches (approximately) on horizon if measured with ruler held at arm's length.

Dark end of object at very first sighting in Print I definitely appeared to be of material substance and not just a cloud formation.

Distance object traveled from Print III to Print IV where it shot FORWARD appeared to be about seven inches on a ruler held at arm's length.



this case includes

Seven (7) 8x10 color photos of
Sketches

And
Dup. Slides

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

CORTLAND, N. Y.

February 23, 1965

Dr. J. Allen Hynek

Dearborn Observatory, Northwestern Univ.

Evanston, Illinois, 60201

Dear Dr. Hynek

Apparently our minds were operating on the same wave length last week, because at the time when you were writing your letter of February 18th, I was in the process of assembling the sketches and data and putting them together in a comprehensible form. I was honored to receive your telephone call and very pleased to discuss the sighting with you. I have re-read my letter to you for the first time since it was sent and realize that I contradicted myself in some of the details.

One point is that the jet trails actually appeared from West to East as stated in the letter and not vice-versa as stated in my telephone conversation. Since our conversation I have returned to the location of the sighting and as nearly as I can remember it to be find that the trail of the object was actually nearer the South end of Skaneateles Lake and not half way up as I stated to you. Further I had also forgotten that I had mailed a copy of my letter to you to Stephen R. Putnam of Scituate, Mass, whose hobby is UFOs. However, I never heard from him and the only reason I wrote to him was that he had had an article in our local paper. Other than that I have discussed this matter only with close friends.

It is amazing what details one can forget in six months time and you caught me at a very busy time in my office so that my recall was not too quick on the matters we discussed. I am inclosing herewith seven prints of the sighting which my wife prepared from our description of the same describing it as nearly as we all can recall, together with a description of the same and I intend to return to the location to have photographs made for your reference.

In the event there is anything further wherein I can be of assistance to you in your research of similar situations, kindly advise and I will be very happy to do so. Thanking you very much for your interest herein, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

WDO:dd:

Inclosures 8

Reg. Mail, RR

18 February 1965

Dr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cortland, New York

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]

I am still very much interested in the sighting which you made last April, but I am no closer to a solution than I was before. I write this to remind you that you promised to send the sketches of the sighting that I believe you said your wife made.

You were not certain whether the original sketches still existed, but you indicated that if they did not, you would prevail upon your wife to reproduce them as best she can from memory. I hope that you will be able to favor me with this in the near future as I would like to include these in the case file.

I trust that everything else is well with you and that you are carrying your camera around with you!

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH:krf

DEARBORN OBSERVATORY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201
12 January 1965

Major Hector Quintanilla
Foreign Technology Division
Box 9494
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Major:

You will soon fire me because instead of solving unidentifieds, I appear to be adding to them. I believe you got a copy of a letter that was sent to me by a [REDACTED] a physiotherapist from Cortland, New York, dated May 15, [REDACTED] this was ever officially reported to your office, but it was officially reported to me, and so I guess in a way that counts as being officially reported. The sighting occurred on April 11, 1964, at 6:30 P.M., apparently Eastern Standard Time, as the sun was just setting behind a hill to the west. If you do not have a copy of his letter, I'll send you a copy of my "toasted" copy. I rather think I sent the original on to you.

At any rate, I got around to calling and had a fairly long conversation with him. He said he reported it to me because he had seen the account of my investigation in Socorro and because there were three other witnesses. He said that had he seen this alone, he definitely would not have reported it to anyone. Coupling it with the usual statement that he'd never seen anything like this before in all his life. The letter gives the main events, and once again, as it seems to have happened a number of times recently, even though a number of months have separated the sighting from my call, (which always catches them completely cold) none of the facts have essentially changed. The phone conversation was mainly useful in that it gave me an idea what the guy sounded like and to see if he had any afterthoughts in the meantime. The physical location turns out to be at the south end of Skaneateles Lake, which is one of the Finger Lakes. The only other witnesses were his wife and two children, aged fourteen and ten respectively. There was a south wind blowing according to him, and the contrails that he saw shortly before were definitely drifting northward. The trail he saw came from the northeast to southwest and drifted southward. The contrails, furthermore, broke up quite rapidly without much turbulence, and disappeared soon thereafter.

The southwestern portion of the cloud appeared to get darker, which he first explained as the effect as the setting sun. However, if this had been the case, it should have been the eastern part of the trail that got dark first. It was at this time that he began to observe it with six-power binoculars and then saw these wisps of dark smoke coming out of it. The original trail, incidentally, he said appeared very suddenly, "all of a sudden, it was there." At first he said it looked like a plane on fire, just like you see in the movies when a plane has been shot down at war, but the thing just

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... was in the sky like a banana. It was at this point that he said that he had not seen it for himself. "You'd never had heard from me." The cloud itself seemed to have come from high elevation and as high or higher than the contrails he saw at first. He said the incident "shook him up a bit" and he cursed himself for not having his camera along, especially as he is a camera bug and usually has it along with him.

When the second object appeared, he thought perhaps it was his daughter's imagination, but then he saw it also and examined it with binoculars. This cloud, horizontal, was traveling toward the north, and he said it must have been gigantic because the only clouds in the sky, which were cumulus, were far to the west. This second cloud behaved in a very peculiar fashion--- it would shoot forward with a flash and move completely out of the field of vision of his binoculars, and then just as rapidly shoot back again. He said the speed was "as fast as one moved one's hand." The back and forth motion would have covered the angular distance from the index to fourth finger on an outstretched hand held at full arm's length. The object itself could have been covered by a thumbnail with the hand in same position.

Now if this had been in the Southwest someplace, I would say that some gunnery practice had been going on and a balloon suspended target, invisible previously, was set aflame by a direct hit. The first trail would have been the trail of the original missile. However, this is over a populated area, and I don't think such gunnery takes place there. It is fairly near to Rome Air Base, but I have not heard that they do experimental gunnery there.

I forgot to mention that the whole duration was something of the order of a half an hour to forty-five minutes, but I think that he said that in the letter. They had ample time to observe the strange goings-on, and to check with each other. When they got home, they wrote down the events and made sketches. He wife is supposed to send me the original sketches or redraw some if she has lost the originals. As yet, they haven't arrived.

So, what do you make of it?

The letter brings out one thing which I think is of general interest and that is that people in general respect serious investigations and research work, especially that connected with a university. It was the fact that a Northwestern University professor had taken the time to devote to investigate that apparently prompted this man to write me his experiences. From my long phone conversation with him, there is no doubt in my mind about his basic reliability and intelligence. I asked whether he minded having his case in his name included in the official files and he said, "Not at all." It would be nice if one of you had occasion to visit Rome Air Force Base and then called on this guy.

I am afraid that this is another "unidentified," the Case of the Burning Banana. The only logical explanation I can see is that it was a case of aerial gunnery and target practice, but what's that doing over Rome, New York?

To morrow I leave for Washington, and this letter will probably be signed (forged) by Kathy. I will see Maston Jacks and the redoubtable Mrs. Hunt while I am in Washington and undoubtedly give you a call from there (their nickel).

Sincerely,

Allen (xxx)

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

CORTLAND, N. Y.

May 15, 1964

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Director, Dearborn Observatory
Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Hynek

I can appreciate that you probably receive hundreds of letters of this type, but if the information submitted herein assists you in any way in your research of matters of this sort, I am happy to submit it to you.

On April 11, 1964, my wife, two children (██████, age 10, and ██████, age 14) and I were having a picnic supper on a hill 1800 feet above sea level, about ten miles Northwest of Homer, New York. It was 6:30 p.m., wind out of the North about 5 miles per hour, and the day was crystal clear with just a few stratus clouds on the Western horizon. At about 6:00 p.m. several jet bombers had left vapor trails up high, traveling from West to East, but these trails quickly disappeared.

As I looked up in the sky a little to the Northwest of us at about 6:30 p.m. there appeared what I thought was a very large jet trail from Northeast to Southwest. It was very white and wide and at the Southwest end there was a break on the trail of about 1 mile. Then a very black spiral formation of what appeared to be smoke appeared about 1 mile long. We remarked that the white trail was unusually wide for a jet trail and apparently the black portion looked dark because of the angulation of the glow of the setting sun behind the Western hill several miles away.

The white vapor trail hung in the sky and gradually drifted to the South, slowly dissipating. Up to this point we were observing what we believed to be a normal situation, except for the abrupt ending of the white trail, the space and the continuation of the black spiral tip.

Approximately ten minutes had now passed and it suddenly occurred to me that the black spiral cloud had slowly moved to the West while the white trail had drifted Southward. Also, the cloud became much darker and we all observed this. At this point I took my 6 x 25 binoculars to observe it and was shocked to see wisps of smoke actually streaming out of the black cloud...almost boiling out. It

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was now slowly approaching the distant stratus cloud formation silhouetted against the Western hill. Suddenly the black cloud, still retaining its spiral shape, changed from the horizontal position to a vertical position with greater smoke activity and resembled a smoking plane slowly falling from the sky, at the same time assuming a shape not unlike a banana. Then it no longer seemed to be falling, but simply stopped and hung there for two or three minutes and then very slowly seemed to sink into the clouds and was obliterated. Everyone of us observed this strange phenomenon plainly with the naked eye.

After about three minutes had elapsed while we were all wondering if our eyes had played tricks on us, my daughter suddenly exclaimed "there's another one". It appeared as a horizontal pencil shaped object. It was impossible at that distance to determine the length, but it could have been as large as a submarine. It moved from the left on the horizon to the right. We could not agree as to whether this was the original object or another rendezvousing with the first object, as this second sighting appeared to the left of where the first object became obliterated by the clouds.

As I was observing it with my binoculars, there was a flash of white light from the rear of it and it shot forward with incredible speed for a distance of about five times its length and as suddenly stopped, still maintaining the pencil shape, apparently hovering. My son described the incident as it happened while I watched it with the binoculars. It became thick in the middle and with a cloud of smoke emanating from it, shot backward as rapidly as it had gone forward about the same distance. Again it hovered and then began to shorten in length until it appeared saucer shaped, fat in the middle. Then the most incredible part occurred...from the saucer shape it became almost perfectly round and slowly divided into two parts, one above the other, very much as a single cell does under a microscope. The top object slowly became smaller as it appeared to fade off in the distance, while the second object headed downward at a 45° angle toward the spot where we had seen the banana shaped object disappear. At this point it divided in two again but the bottom object now assumed a vertical pencil shape while the top oval object slowly faded away. We realize the pencil shape could well be a disc observed from the side. Then the pencil shaped object also faded from sight.

as though
they are
rendezvousing